

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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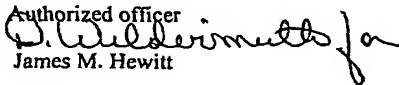
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 22 SEP 2005

WIPO

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Applicant's or agent's file reference 25791.137.02	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416																								
International application No. PCT/US04/28438	International filing date (day/month/year) 01 September 2004 (01.09.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year) 02 September 2003 (02.09.2003)																									
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): F16L 35/00, 37/00, 55/00 and US Cl.: 285/382, 333, 390, 114; 29/507, 522.1, 523																											
Applicant ENVENTURE GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY, LLC																											
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of ___ sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) ___ , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand 01 April 2005 (01.04.2005)	Date of completion of this report 12 July 2005 (12.07.2005)																										
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer  James M. Hewitt Telephone No. 571-272-3600																										

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/US04/28438

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

- the international application as originally filed/furnished
- the description:
pages 1-27 as originally filed/furnished
pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
- the claims:
pages 28-37 as originally filed/furnished
pages* NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
- the drawings:
pages 1-8 as originally filed/furnished
pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, Nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, Nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/US04/28438

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>2, 8-13, 21 and 26</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1, 3-7, 14-20, 22-25 and 27-42</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>2 and 13</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1, 3-12 and 14-42</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-42</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and Explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1, 3-7, 14-20, 22-25 and 27-42 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Coulon et al (WIPO 02/01102) which illustrates the present invention with expanded threaded members (11, 12) and groove (21 or 14) which will inherently act as a stress concentrator during expansion.

Claim 42 lacks novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Schafer et al (US 5,667,252). Refer to Figure 2 which illustrates the members (200, 202) expanded and sealed together.

Claims 8-12, 21 and 26 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Coulon et al (WIPO 02/01102) in view of LeBegue et al (US 6,390,720). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify Coulon et al's groove (21) to be plural, helical, or internal such as taught by LeBegue et al (see column 2, lines 55-65) inasmuch as such changes are considered to be merely a matter of choice in known design depending on intended use.

Claims 2 and 13 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a separate grooved sleeve stress concentrator in an expandable threaded coupling.

Claims 1-42 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus meet industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----